IN THE CLAIMS

~~Claim 1 has been amended as follows:~~

1. (Currently Amended) A ventilator comprising:

an inspiratory unit;

an expiratory valve;

a control unit for controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to regulate a flow of breathing gas by generating a recruitment phase with an elevated basic pressure for said breathing gas, with a plurality of breaths superimposed on said elevated basic pressure and an increased breathing rate with no withdrawal of said breathing gas.

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2. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to produce said elevated basic pressure in a range from 10 to 80 cmH_2O.

3. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said superimposed breaths at a pressure in a range from 1 to 10 cmH_2O.

4. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said increased breathing rate in a range from 50 to 200 breaths/minute.

5. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to set said increased breathing rate as a percentage of a predetermined normal breathing rate.

6. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 5 wherein said control unit sets said percentage to a percentage in a range between 110 % and 1000%.

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7. (Original) A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said recruitment phase for a duration in a range between 100 to 100 seconds.

Add the following new claims 8-14.

8. (New) A method for recruiting a lung of a subject, comprising the steps of:

A2

connecting a breathing system, including lungs, of a subject to an inspiratory unit and an expiratory valve; and

controlling the inspiratory unit and the expiratory valve to regulate a flow of breathing gas to recruit at least one of the lungs with an elevated basic pressure for the breathing gas, and superimposing a plurality of breaths on the elevated basic pressure at an increased breathing rate, with no withdrawal of said breathing gas.

9. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to produce said elevated basic pressure in a range from 10 to 80cm H_20.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said superimposed breaths at a pressure in a range from 1 to 10cmH_20.

11. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said increased breathing rate in a range from 50 to 200 breaths/minute.

A2

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to set said increased breathing rate as a percentage of a predetermined normal breathing rate.

13. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising setting said percentage to a percentage in a range between 110% and 1000%.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to recruit at least one of the lungs for a duration in a range between 10 to 100 seconds.